

REMARKS**I. General**

In the present Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, and 6 are rejected. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 1-25 and 27-80 are currently pending. Claims 77-80 have previously been withdrawn and have been canceled by the present Amendment. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 7-25 and 27-76 are indicated as allowed.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

II. Applicant's Record Under M.P.E.P. § 713.04 of Interview with the Examiner

Applicants' attorneys appreciate the Examiner's time and consideration in conducting the telephone interview of December 2, 2003. Applicants respectfully submit the following record of the telephone interview of December 2, 2003 under M.P.E.P. § 713.04.

The following persons participated in the interviews: Examiner Michael B. Shingleton and Applicants' Attorneys Jody Bishop and Thomas Kelton.

Claim 1 was discussed with reference made to the cited art. While no agreement was reached, the Examiner indicated that the addition of functional or structural language to claim 1 would be looked upon favorably.

In view of the telephone interview of December 2, 2003, Applicants hereby present amended claim 1 and arguments for claims 1-3, 5, and 6 for the Examiner's consideration.

III. Response to Claim Objections

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claim 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4 has been amended as such, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection thereto.

VI. Response to Claim Rejections**A. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Iburkuro***

On page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner rejects claim 1 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent number 4,961,057 to *Iburkuro*, hereinafter, *Iburkuro*. Applicants believe the arguments distinguishing the claims over *Iburkuro* are still applicable, and, therefore, that the claims are allowable over the art of record. However, in an effort to bring the claims to issue more rapidly, Applicants present amendments to claim 1 herein believed to more clearly distinguish *Iburkuro*. In view of the amendments and comments below, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part:

a second amplification stage in communication with said first amplification stage, wherein said first amplification stage and said second amplification stage are adapted to cooperate such that a first mode of operation provides gain adjustment of an input signal while substantially maintaining output linearity and a second mode of operation provides gain adjustment of said input signal while substantially maintaining input linearity and wherein a high frequency response of said amplifier is maintained by selectively varying an adjustable capacitor disposed on said second amplification stage.

Iburkuro does not teach at least the above aspect of amended claim 1. *Iburkuro* teaches a circuit that compensates for cable loss, which does not teach a first mode of operation providing gain adjustment of an input signal while substantially maintaining output linearity and a second mode of operation providing gain adjustment of said input signal while substantially maintaining input linearity. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of record.

B. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Iburkuro*

Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Iburkuro*. In view of the amendments and comments below, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Iburkuro* fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 2, 3, 5, and 6.

As discussed above, *Iburkuro* does not teach every aspect of independent claim 1. In rejecting the dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner does not rely on *Iburkuro* or any other cited art to teach or suggest a first mode of operation providing gain adjustment of an input signal while substantially maintaining output linearity and a second mode of operation providing gain adjustment of said input signal while substantially maintaining input linearity, as provided in part by amended claim 1; nor does *Iburkuro* teach or suggest this aspect. Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and thus inherit all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Thus, *Iburkuro* does not teach or suggest all claim limitations of claims 2, 3, 5, and 6. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are allowable not only because of their dependencies from claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, but also in view of their novel claim features which narrow the scope of the particular claims and compel a broader interpretation of the independent claim from which they depend.

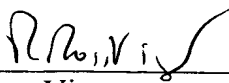
V. Summary

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 49581/P022US/09906908 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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